



NEWS RELEASE

2005 JOINT TASK FORCE - ARMED FORCES INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

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ARMED FORCES INAUGURAL SUPPORT COMMENCES

WASHINGTON (Joint Task Force - Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (JTF-AFIC)) - The Department of Defense has designated Joint Task Force – Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (JTF- AFIC) to provide military ceremonial support to the 2005 Presidential Inaugural.

In 1789, when George Washington began his inaugural journey from Mount Vernon, VA to New York City, local militias joined his inaugural procession as it passed through towns along the way. Once Washington arrived in New York City, a presidential escort composed of members of the Continental Army accompanied him to Federal Hall for the presidential oath. The military has continued this tradition of inaugural support ever since.

The Department of Defense established the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee in the 1950's, as a temporary task force comprised of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen to render military honors to the President during inaugural events. President Dwight Eisenhower was the first to have Armed Forces Inaugural Committee support for his Inauguration in 1953.

The committee is formed several months before the presidential election to provide military ceremonial support to the Inauguration and related activities during the 10-day inaugural period. The Commander, JTF-AFIC, is U.S. Army Major General Galen Jackman and the Deputy Commander is U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Duane Lodrige. JTF-AFIC also serves

as the Department of Defense liaison to support the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC).

For further information, contact JTF-AFIC Public Affairs at (202) 358-5351.

Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.afic.army.mil>.